

REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, Claims 13-15 and 14-40 were pending in this application. Claims 13-15 and 17-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037103 A1 to Salmi et al. (hereinafter, "Salmi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,171,473 to Eftis et al. (hereinafter, "Eftis").

As indicated above, Claims 13, 18, 22, 27, 39, and 40 have been amended, No new matter has been presented. Claims 13-15 and 17-40 are now pending, with Claims 13, 18, 22, 27, 39, and 40 as independent claims.

Regarding the §103(a) rejection of independent Claims 13, 22 and 39, which have been amended to recite, a "synchronization key for requesting, from a server after the termination of the previous connection between the client terminal and the server, only presence attribute data updated after a termination of a previous connection between the client terminal and the server," these claims are not taught, disclosed, or suggested by Salmi and Eftis.

Salmi describes a method in which an IM client requests, from a server, presence information of another IM client by using a GetPresence message, as shown in Figure 3A of Salmi. In other words, the GetPresence message of Salmi is merely for requesting presence information of other IM clients, but Salmi does not teach that a synchronization key for requesting only the presence attribute data updated after a termination of a previous connection, as recited in the amended Claims 13, 22 and 39.

As explained in the Background to the Invention section of the present application, according to the prior art:

If specific presence attributes are generated when the client terminal 10 is disconnected from the server 110 are equal to those generated when the client terminal is reconnected to the server 110, or if a small amount of updated presence attributes are provided, the server 110 must transmit all the presence attributes to the client terminal 10, such that unnecessary traffic and time are consumed. (Specification, page 3, line 20-page 4, line 4).

According to Claims 13, 22, and 39, a client terminal requests only presence attribute data updated after the termination of the previous connection, rather than all presence attribute data, which would include presence attribute data updated before the termination of the previous connection. (see also Specification, page 17, lines 7-11). This feature, as explained above, provides an advantage of reducing traffic caused by requesting and transmitting redundant information that has already been previously received by the client terminal. Salmi does not teach this feature of amended independent Claims 13, 22, and 39.

Further, Eftis does not cure the deficiencies of Salmi. Eftis merely describes receiving update information from users included in an active group to avoid an unnecessary transmission of update information. In other words, when users that have previously joined are not included in the active group, the update information is not received, even when reconnecting after termination of a previous connection. By contrast, according to amended Claims 13, 22, and 39, the client terminal requests only presence attribute data updated after a termination of a previous connection. Therefore, Eftis relates to receiving information according to membership in the active group, while the information requested in Claims 13, 22, and 39 is limited according to a different factor- whether the information has been updated after a termination of the previous connection. Eftis does not teach, disclose, or suggest this feature of Claims 13, 22, and 39.

Therefore, Salmi and Eftis do not teach, disclose, or suggest, alone or in combination, all of the limitations of amended Claims 13, 22, and 39, and therefore these claims are patentable over Salmi and Eftis. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of amended Claims 13, 22, and 39 is respectfully requested.

Regarding the §103(a) rejection of independent Claims 18, 27, and 40 these claims are also not anticipated by Salmi. Claims 18, 27, and 40 recite, in part, “checking presence attribute data updated after a termination of the previous connection between the client terminal and the server, wherein the updated presence attribute data is requested from the client terminal.” Claims 18, 27, and 40 have also been amended to recite, “wherein the transmitted updated presence attribute data does not include presence attribute data updated before the termination of the previous connection.” Salmi and Eftis do not teach, disclose, or suggest these limitations of amended independent Claims 18, 27, and 40, for at least the reasons stated above regarding independent Claims 13, 22, and 39.

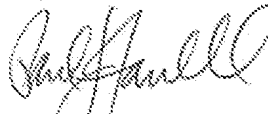
According to Claims 18, 27, and 40, presence attribute data that has been updated before the termination of the previous connection is not transmitted along with presence attribute data that has been updated after the termination of the previous connection. Therefore, unnecessary traffic caused in the prior art by transmitting redundant information that has already been previously transmitted to the client terminal during a previous connection is conserved.

Therefore, Salmi and Eftis do not teach, disclose, or suggest, alone or in combination, all of the limitations of amended Claims 18, 27, and 40, and therefore these claims are patentable over Salmi and Eftis. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of amended Claims 18, 27, and 40 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-15, 17, 19-21, 23-26, and 28-38 are dependent claims, and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given above with regard to their respective independent Claims 13, 18, 22, and 27.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 13-15 and 17-40 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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